

Remarks

The captioned application was the subject of a decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on 28 September 2006, affirming-in-part a final rejection. Applicants choose not to appeal further, and to amend the application to cancel the rejected claims. The Board reversed the rejections of claims 16 and 19-33. Consistent with the Decision of the Board, claims 1-15, 17 and 18 are canceled. Claim 16 depended directly from claim 1, and is amended to put it in independent form incorporating all limitations of claim 1 from which it depended directly.

Independent claim 27 is also amended to change fluid to liquid at the end of the first limitation, in order for the claim to be internally consistent. This was a clerical error. In an earlier amendment (17 December 2004), "fluid" was changed to "liquid" throughout claim 27 and its dependent claims. However, the change was inadvertently omitted in one instance that is now corrected.

The undersigned thanks the Primary Examiner for his courtesy in a telephone conversation on 10 October 2006, in which he said to submit the present Amendment.

The applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and request reconsideration and allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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